



PR #06-186-1

July 5, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army-Community Heritage Partnership

Fort Lee, Petersburg team up for Army-Community Heritage Partnership

FORT LEE, VA – The community of Petersburg and Fort Lee have been selected by the Department of the Army and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Main Street Center in Washington D.C. as one of eight communities in the country to be the focus of a project that seeks “to strengthen the economic, historic, and social ties between Army installations and historic commercial districts in the neighboring community.”

Representatives from the National Trust Main Street Center and the Department of the Army will visit downtown Petersburg and Fort Lee July 10-11, 2006, to introduce the program, called Army-Community Heritage Partnerships, to the community and to the post.

Community members are invited to attend a briefing on the program July 10 from 5:30-7 p.m. This briefing will be held at the Union Train Station located at 103 River Street in Old Towne Petersburg. It will outline the Army-Community Heritage Partnership program, review objectives, discuss desired outcomes, and describe the technical assistance services that will be part of the project over the next year. The visiting team will be looking for input from both post and community representatives on a variety of issues related to downtown’s economic development and the downtown’s relationship to Fort Lee.

For 231 years, the United States Army has played a vital role in the growth and development of this nation. Fort Lee is honored to continue that proud heritage and legacy of commitment as part of the Army-Community Heritage Partnership program, said Col. Gwen Bingham, Fort Lee Garrison commander. “The Soldiers, civilian employees, family members, retirees and everyone else who makes up part of our extended family are vital parts of the community. Through this program, we will continue to build on the solid foundation that exists between Petersburg and Fort Lee.”

Teresa Lynch, NTMSC senior program officer and project coordinator, said she is looking forward to the visit, which will provide valuable insight on “how the relationship between Fort Lee and the community of Petersburg can be strengthened and lead to economic growth for the downtown district.” Lynch will be accompanied by William Armbruster, the Army’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for Privatization and Partnerships, and Gary Robinson, director of the Army’s Office of Historic Properties, both agencies are based at the Pentagon in Washington.

Lynch said that the services and technical assistance that will be provided to Petersburg will focus on preservation-based, economic development strategies that enhance Fort Lee’s connections with the community and assist in increasing the vitality of the historic downtown commercial district.

One of the primary goals of the project, Lynch said, is “to better serve the Army family - those individuals who make up Fort Lee’s military and civilian population, visitors to the post, and military retirees. This can be done by providing enhanced shopping opportunities, product availability, services, and new attractions in the downtown district.” Lynch said that “Fort Lee offers tremendous market opportunities for downtown Petersburg.” She said that the Heritage Partnership project will assist the community in developing strategies to take advantage of those circumstances.

“The community support we receive helps to make Fort Lee such a wonderful place to live and work,” Bingham said. “We are excited about the chance to have enhanced opportunities for our Soldiers and families as this only increases their quality of life as they answer the nation’s call to duty.”